

the same collection shows that this 'Mountain Stream' was in the Wind River Mountains near the head waters of the Gros Ventre River east of Jackson Hole. Both of the Hayden specimens are now in the U. S. National Museum.

The Harlequin Duck has long been known to breed sparingly in the Rocky Mountains in Montana and Colorado. In 1874 Coues<sup>1</sup> found young in August, unable to fly, on the streams which flow into Chief Mountain Lake, Montana, and two adult females collected by the expedition at this locality on August 22 are in the National Museum. In 1881 Dr. Merrill<sup>2</sup> found several pairs breeding near Fort Custer almost exactly on the Montana-Wyoming boundary, although he failed to discover their nests. The notes of the Biological Survey contain records of a flock of eight or ten seen on St. Mary Lake by Vernon Bailey and A. H. Howell in May, 1895, and of a female seen by the same observers June 19, 1895, at Java, on the line of the Great Northern Railway between Belton and Summit in Flathead County.

In Colorado Carter<sup>3</sup> collected eggs June 3, 1877, in Middle Park and also found the bird breeding in the same general region in Summit County, on Blue River just below Breckenridge, at an altitude of 9,200 feet.<sup>4</sup> In 1881 Drew<sup>5</sup> recorded it as common in San Juan County, where it was said to breed. Morrison<sup>6</sup> reported in 1888 that he had often seen it through the winter at Fort Lewis on the Ute reservation and believed that it bred both in San Juan and La Plata counties.

The bird is evidently a rare breeder in the Rocky Mountains south to latitude 37, but the only records seem to be those in 1860, 1874, 1877, 1881, about 1888, 1895 and 1908. It is interesting to note that the records show that it breeds in Wyoming as well as in Montana and Colorado. The first specimens collected half a century ago and so long overlooked were in reality from Wyoming and the two records from that State are both from the Jackson Hole region, one at the north end and the other in the mountains east of the valley.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

**The King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) in Massachusetts.**—Four years ago I had, for the first time, the pleasure of seeing this boreal species alive, and of closely examining in the flesh a male in nearly full plumage. It seemed to me then, as at present, the most beautiful of the Fuliginæ of North America. I became interested in its past and present status in Massachusetts, and made some investigations, the results of which are appended.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Birds of the Northwest,' p. 579, 1874.

<sup>2</sup> Orn. and Ool., VI, p. 44, 1881.

<sup>3</sup> Allen, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, IV, p. 50, 1879.

<sup>4</sup> Cooke, 'Birds of Colorado,' Bull. 56, Agri. Exp. Sta. Colo., p. 195, 1900.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VI, p. 142, 1881.

<sup>6</sup> Orn. and Ool., XIII, p. 165, 1888.

The earliest writers refer to the species as rare or very rare in Massachusetts. Alexander Wilson, according to Bonaparte was not even aware that it was a member of the North American fauna. Audubon speaks of its rare occurrence in the vicinity of the 'Bay of Boston,' and further states that "I have, however been assured by old and trustworthy gunners that the King Duck, about thirty years ago, was by no means of rare occurrence there during winter." Curiously enough I also have received the same sort of information within a year from the same type of observer. It is marvelous how many statements get into literature from fishermen, etc., a type that in my experience has proved to be exceedingly unreliable as a rule. I am aware of one market gunner dwelling on the Atlantic seaboard who is exceedingly dishonest in most of his dealings with men, yet many of his statements have worked their way verbatim into American ornithology. The query naturally suggests itself: Will a man of naturally dishonest propensities in the pursuit of a livelihood, furnish ornithological data fit to be handed down to posterity?

The King Eider, as we know it, is apparently during the winter an 'off-shore' bird, and its previous reported occurrence near the coast would indicate a change in habits. Mr. A. H. Norton (Auk, Vol. XVII, No. 1, Jan., 1900, p. 18) states that *Somateria spectabilis* feeds largely on Holothurians (*Pentacta frondosa*), hence their feeding in deeper water than *dresseri* which as far as I know, prefers in our waters, the common mussel (*Mytilus edulis* Linné) and perhaps *Modiolus modiolus* (Linné). On the other hand two King Eiders shot at Long Island on three to four fathoms of water were said by Mr. William Dutcher to be gorged with *Mytilus edulis* (Auk, Vol. V, No. 2, April, 1888, p. 174). If at former times they were near the coast it is reasonable to believe that they might have fed on *Mytilus edulis*, which is now and undoubtedly has been, abundant along our shore. That they were driven off shore before Audubon's time by the persecution of man seems unreasonable, for I am assured by a friend who has killed many Eiders in the far north that they exhibit no more fear than the other Eiders which are notably fearless. Mr. A. C. Bent of Taunton tells me that the gunners at Westport, Mass., state that these birds are common in that vicinity during winter, frequenting the outer rocky islands and reefs. 'Common' seems a strong statement, but the fact that eight were killed in one day would lead one to believe that they may be 'not rare.' They apparently know the King from the American Eider as they refer to the former as 'Cousins' and the latter as 'Wamps.' The species is undoubtedly more common than present literature and accurate observations would indicate, as systematic offshore work is a difficult problem for most ornithologists. Until further investigations are made however, it must be considered a very rare visitant in Massachusetts.

The majority of the specimens taken have been shot during the fall, but this, I think, is not due to the migration routes or periods, but to the fact that they were procured largely by gunners engaged in 'cooting,' a sport that in most localities where Scoters did not 'bed,' ceased by the first.

of December. The spring flight of Scoters would bring the sportsmen out too late for King Eiders as the latter go north very early, even leaving southern Greenland late in April (W. W. Cooke, Bull. 26. Biol. Survey, p. 59.)

The fact that most of the specimens noted in Massachusetts have been juvenal males and females is no doubt due to the fact that the adult males do not migrate so far south as the females and young, a phenomenon noted in other species of birds.

The following records are all that have come to my notice, and I am greatly indebted to those who have kindly furnished me with such records as have not been previously published.

Adult male in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History taken by Dr. Samuel Cabot, Jr., and labelled 'Massachusetts.' This bird was probably taken some sixty years ago at least.

Female ditto.

Juvenal male taken Nov. 6, 1871, at Cohasset. Now in collection of Mr. William Brewster.

Juvenal male taken during Nov., 1871. Exact locality not known. Collection of Mr. William Brewster.

Female taken Dec. 1, 1875. No exact locality. Collection of Mr. William Brewster.

Male shot at Chelsea on Jan. 6, 1875. Collection of Mr. William Brewster.

Female taken during Jan., 1875 at Chelsea. Collection of Mr. William Brewster.

Female shot by Mr. W. S. Bryant at Cohasset, Nov. 1, 1885. This specimen is now in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge, Mass.

Adult male taken during the autumn of 1888 at Manomet, South Plymouth. It was alone in the cove just south of Manomet Point. (H. K. Job, Auk, Vol. XIII, No. 3, July, 1896, p. 203.)

Unsexed specimen taken at Marblehead, Nov. 24, 1889. Now in the collection of the Peabody Academy of Science at Salem. (Birds of Essex County, C. W. Townsend, p. 142.)

Juvenal male shot at Salisbury by Mr. Benj. F. Damsell on Nov. 24, 1889. (MSS. of Dr. G. M. Allen.)

The species was observed at Wood's Hole, April 10, 1893, by Capt. V. N. Edwards. (Prof. W. W. Cooke in litt.)

Juvenal male taken at Muskeget Island, April 5, 1890. (Ornith. & Ool, Vol. 15, No. 7, July, 1890, p. 110.)

Juvenal male taken at Nantucket, Jan. 15, 1891. Collection of Mr. William Brewster.

The species observed at Wood's Hole on April 10 and Nov. 16, 1893, by Capt. V. N. Edwards. (Prof. W. W. Cooke in litt.)

Two females shot on Lower Mystic Pond, Arlington on Dec. 4, 1893, by Mr. Geo. B. Frazar. (Birds of the Cambridge Region, William Brewster, p. 122.)

The species noted by Capt. V. N. Edwards at Wood's Hole on April 10 and Nov. 11, 1894. (Prof. W. W. Cooke in litt.)

Adult male taken Nov. 15, 1895, at Manomet Point. (H. K. Job, Auk, Vol. 13, No. 3, July, 1896, p. 203.)

Juvenal male taken at Nippenicket Pond, Bridgewater on Oct. 21, 1899, by Mr. Joseph E. Bassett. According to Mr. Bassett's journal there was a northeast storm on the 20th shifting to a cold N. W. gale on the 21st. The specimen is now in the collection of Mr. Arthur C. Dyke of Bridgewater from whom I learned these details though the capture of the bird has been recorded. (A. C. Bent, Auk, Vol. XIX, No. 2, April, 1902, p. 196.)

Female taken at Monomoy, April 8, 1905, by Mr. C. Otto Zerrahn of Milton, and now in his collection. It was in a flock of about ten American Eiders.

Male in nearly full plumage taken by a gunner at Manomet Point, Nov. 26, 1908, and now in my collection. It was in company with two females or juvenal males of apparently the same species for they passed near enough to me to note that they seemed more stockily built and had shorter heads than the American Eider with which I am familiar.

Four juvenal males and 4 females shot on Feb. 3, 1909, near the Hen and Chicken reef off Westport. Four of these are in the collection of Mr. A. C. Bent of Taunton, and the rest in the collection of the Bristol County Academy of Sciences at Taunton. (Mr. A. C. Bent in litt.)

Two specimens taken at Martha's Vineyard on Nov. 17, 1911. There were four birds in the flock. These specimens were sent to Mr. Owen Durfee of Fall River.—W. SPRAGUE BROOKS, *Milton, Mass.*

**Brazilian Tree-duck** (*Dendrocygna viduata*) in **New Jersey**.—Early last October I learned of the receipt, by Thomas Rowland, taxidermist, of New York, of an unrecognized Duck, reported to have been killed in New Jersey and sent to the taxidermist for preservation. The specimen is a Brazilian Tree-duck killed on the Hackensack Meadows in New Jersey, by Hon. John W. Griggs, of Paterson, N. J.

Governor Griggs was returning down the Hackensack River from a shooting excursion, when he saw this Duck resting on a drift log at a place where the tide overflowed the meadow, about a mile and a half above the village of Hackensack. As the bird was at once seen to be unusual, Governor Griggs shot it. It was not at all shy.

The specimen showed no signs of ever having been in captivity, but in any event its occurrence at liberty in New Jersey seems worth recording.—GEORGE BIRD GRINNELL, *New York City.*

**An Addition to the A. O. U. Check-List**.—Through the kindness of Mr. Gardner Perry of Dedham, Mass., I am able to record the following interesting capture.

In March, 1912, while shooting at Cape Canaveral, Florida, Mr. Perry secured a Bahama Duck (*Pæcilonetta bahamensis* (Linn.)). Unfortunately